

REMARKS

Claims 1-70 were pending and have been subject to a restriction requirement and an election requirement in the Office action. Applicant has responded to the restriction requirement by restricting the application to Invention I, consisting of Claims 1-21 and 28-63 while canceling Claims 22-27 and 64-70 which are drawn to Invention II.

The Examiner has defined the species of Inventions I and II with respect to four groups of figures, viz. 1-3, 18, 20 and 35, and required an election of species corresponding thereto. The aspects of the figures cited which the Examiner considers to uniquely define the species are not identified in the Office action. In an effort to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Applicant proposes that the following groupings of claims be considered:

Group I: Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-20

Group II: Claims 7, 14 and 21

Group III: Claims 28-37, 39-49, 51-61 and 63

Group IV: Claims 38, 50 and 62

The Applicant elects Group I and has withdrawn the claims in Groups II-IV.


New Claim 71 has been introduced, and the Applicant submits that it is a generic claim. No new matter has been introduced.

As a result of this amendment, Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-20 and 71 are pending.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that a Notice of Allowance be promptly issued.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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